COVID, Cancer Care, and Cancer Research

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Cancer Policy Roundtable

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.
April 22, 2021

@NCIDirector
@TheNCI
Today

• 50th Anniversary of the National Cancer Act
• Cancer Moonshot
• NCI Appropriations & Paylines
• COVID-19 Impacts and Activities
• NCI Activities in Cancer Survivorship
• Equity and Inclusion
“The President and I stand with you. This is the fight of our lives, and we will never stop working to end this disease. And together, I know that we're going to go farther than ever before.”

Dr. Jill Biden
Virtual Visit to NCI
February 3, 2021

I’d love to be the President to preside over the end of cancer as we know it. These are the folks in the House and Senate who would love to preside over cancer —the end of cancer as we know it.

President Joe Biden
Bipartisan Meeting on Cancer, Oval Office
March 3, 2021
What would it mean to end cancer as we know it?

What would it take?
National Cancer Act of 1971 50th Anniversary

NOTHING WILL STOP US™

THE GIFT OF TIME
Commemorating the signing of the National Cancer Act of 1971
## Select Cancer Moonshot efforts in survivorship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Grants / Projects</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving the Management of symptoms during and following Cancer Treatment (IMPACT)</td>
<td>A Randomized Trial of a Mobile Health and Social Media Physical Activity Intervention Among Adolescent and Young Adult Childhood Cancer Survivors</td>
<td>Nina S. Kadan-Lottick, Jason A. Mendoza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Outcomes for Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Survivors</td>
<td>Self-Management to Optimize Survivorship Care and Outcomes in Lung and Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>Virginia Chih-Yi Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optimizing the Management and Outcomes for Cancer Survivors Transitioning to Follow-up Care</td>
<td>The EPICS (Engaging Primary Care In Cancer Survivorship) Study: A Randomized Trial of Novel Models of Care for Cancer Survivors</td>
<td>Erin Elizabeth Hahn</td>
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<td>Optimizing Functional Outcomes of Older Survivors After Chemotherapy</td>
<td>Supriya G. Mohile, Michelle C. Janselsins, Karen M. Mustian</td>
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</tbody>
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NCI Appropriations FY 2015 – 2021 (in millions)

21st Century Cures Act - orange
Childhood Cancer Initiative - green

+ $306M COVID-19 serology (April 2020)
## NCI Paylines for FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANT TYPE</th>
<th>PAYLINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>R01 Grants for Established and New Investigators</td>
<td>11th Percentile</td>
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<tr>
<td>R01 Grants for Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs)</td>
<td>16th Percentile</td>
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<tr>
<td>R21 Exploratory Grants</td>
<td>9th Percentile</td>
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</table>

Non-competing grants will be funded at 100%.

15 by 25 goal
15th percentile R01 payline by 2025
NCI COVID-19 activities

**FOUNDATIONAL SEROLOGY**

Serological Sciences Network (SeroNet)
- 8 Centers of Excellence
- 13 Research Projects
- 4 Capacity Building Centers
- FNL Serology Lab & Network Coordinating Center

**CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SEROLOGY**

Sero-protection Studies:
- Mount Sinai, University of Arizona
- NIH All of Us
- NCI SEER + Health Verity

COVID-19 Seroprevalence Studies Hub (SeroHub)

Antibody test performance evaluation, with FDA

Standard reference serum

Clinical trials for COVID-19 therapeutics
- Tocilizumab
- CD24Fc

**SUPPORT FOR CANCER RESEARCH AND CARE AMID THE PANDEMIC**

NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)

Flexibilities for grantees

Clinical trials adaptations

Modeling to predict long-term cancer outcomes

**ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESEARCH**

- Excess Mortality Study
- Digital Health Solutions (with NIBIB)
- ACTIV (trans-NIH)
NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)

- **900+ trial sites activated in 50 states + DC, Puerto Rico, and Canada.**
- Special emphasis on minority, underserved, and rural communities.
- Enrolled patients will be followed for 2 years.
- Now open to pediatric patients.
- Launched May 21 Conception to Launch in 6 weeks.
- Aims to enroll 2,000 patients across 1,000 sites in U.S.
- 1051 patients enrolled.

As of April 19, 2021.
**COVID-19 & Cancer**

**Percentage change in cancer screenings during COVID-19**

The lines show how the volume of cancer screenings this year compares to the weekly average in the three years prior to the pandemic.

- Cervical cancer
- Colon cancer
- Breast cancer

**Cumulative excess deaths due to COVID-19**

A moderate disruption in care for six months due to the pandemic may add nearly 10,000 deaths from two cancer types this decade.

**Newly identified cancer patients**

Cancer testing data from Quest Diagnostics shows drops in new diagnosis during COVID-19 lockdown period. Use the pull-down to see the trends for the six cancer types.

**Breast cancer patients with pandemic-related delays in care**

The below data shows reported delays from a survey of 607 U.S. breast cancer patients and survivors, 63% of whom were currently receiving cancer treatment.

- Genetic testing or counseling: 11%
- Oral therapy: 13%
- Mastectomy or lumpectomy: 26%
- Radiation: 30%
- Infusion (chemo, immunotherapy): 32%
- Oophorectomy: 33%
- Lab testing: 50%
- Diagnostic imaging or testing: 66%
- Breast reconstruction: 79%

Survey was conducted from April 2 to April 27. In addition to the above categories, 73% chose "Other."

Chart by Emily Banone for TIME • Source: Springer • Get the data • Created with Datavizr
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Screening in the US

Colorectal Cancer Screening (Colonoscopy and FIT)

Lung Cancer Screening (LDCT)

Cancer Screening During the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic: A Perspective From the National Cancer Institute’s PROSPR Consortium. Gastroenterology, Volume 160, Issue 4, 999 - 1002
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Screening in the US

Cervical Cancer Screening (Pap Smear)

Breast Cancer Screening (Mammography)

Cancer Screening During the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic: A Perspective From the National Cancer Institute’s PROSPR Consortium. Gastroenterology, Volume 160, Issue 4, 999 - 1002
Centers on Telehealth Research for Cancer-Related Care – Goals:

Leverage the P50 mechanism to:

1. Create national centers for advancing cancer-related telehealth research in a rapidly changing environment
2. Establish a robust evidence base for patient-centered, sustainable telehealth models of cancer care delivery
3. Foster the development, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based models of cancer-focused telehealth

RFA CA-21-029
Emily S. Tonorezos, MD, MPH
Director
Office of Cancer Survivorship
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
### STAR Act Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New survivorship research opportunities</th>
<th>New biobanking projects</th>
<th>Identifying best practices in survivorship care</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Improving Outcomes for Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors: 7 U01 awards</td>
<td>• Several Children’s Oncology Group projects, including the Rare Tumor Populations Biobank</td>
<td>• Partnership with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research to Reduce Morbidity and Improve Care for Pediatric, and Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Survivors</td>
<td>• Projects in collaboration with the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study</td>
<td>• 1st of 3 evidence reviews published in March 2021 focused on Disparities and Barriers to Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Care</td>
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<td>• Specimen collection efforts in collaboration with the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative</td>
<td>• 2 reviews in progress, to be published later this year, focusing on models of care and transitions in care</td>
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NIH’s Commitment to Ending Structural Racism

- NIH is committed to instituting new ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion, and identifying and dismantling any policies and practices that may harm our workforce and our science.

- NIH established the **UNITE** initiative to address structural racism in biomedical research with the goal of ending racial inequity.

- Primary goals of the initiative are:
  
  U  Understanding stakeholder experiences through listening and learning  
  N  New research on health disparities, minority health, and health equities  
  I  Improving the NIH culture and structure for equity, inclusion and excellence  
  T  Transparency, communication, and accountability with our internal and external stakeholders  
  E  Extramural research ecosystem: changing policy, culture and structure to promote workforce diversity

[nih.gov/ending-structural-racism](nih.gov/ending-structural-racism)
# NCI Equity and Inclusion Program

## EQUITY COUNCIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ned Sharpless</td>
<td>Paulette Gray</td>
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</table>

## WORKING GROUP 1
**Enhancing Research to Address Cancer Health Disparities**

**CO-CHAIRS**
- Jim Doroshow
- Worta McCaskill-Stevens
- Tiffany Wallace

## WORKING GROUP 2
**Ensuring Diversity of Thought and Background in the Cancer Research Workforce**

**CO-CHAIRS**
- LeeAnn Bailey
- Susan McCarthy
- Glenn Merlino

## WORKING GROUP 3
**Promoting an Inclusive and Equitable Community at NCI**

**CO-CHAIRS**
- Shannon Bell
- Paige Green
- Satish Gopal

## WORKING GROUP 4
**Systematic Tracking and Evaluation of Equity Activities**

**CO-CHAIRS**
- Michelle Bennett
- Doug Lowy

## WORKING GROUP 5
**Communications and Outreach for Equity Activities**

**CO-CHAIRS**
- Peter Garrett
- Angela Jones
- Anita Linde

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[NCI National Cancer Institute Logo]
Discussion